

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:  
Pietras, et al.

Serial No.: 09/509,073

Confirmation No.: 5424

Filed: August 22, 2000

For: An Apparatus for  
Facilitating the  
Connection of Tubulars  
Using a Top Drive

Group Art Unit: 3672

Examiner: J. Hawkins Gay

Customer No. 36,735

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE  
37 CFR 1.8I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile  
transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office to fax number  
703/305-7687 to the attention of Examiner Jennifer Gay, on  
the date below

28 August 2003

Kyla D. Cummings  
Signature

## RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 28, 2003

In response to the Office Action dated May 28, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on August 28, 2003, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/MRKS/0012.Y1/WBP for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper. Remarks/Arguments begin on page 7 of this paper.

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## FACSIMILE COVER SHEET

**DATE:** August 28, 2003  
**FILE NO:** MRKS/0012.Y1  
**TO:** Examiner Jennifer H. Gay  
**FAX NO:** 703/305-7687  
**COMPANY:** USPTO  
**FROM:** Bruce Patterson  
**PAGE(S) with cover:** 13  
**ORIGINAL TO FOLLOW?** ☐ YES ☒ NO

### RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED MAY 28, 2003

**U.S. SERIAL NO.:** 09/509,073 ✓  
**FILING DATE:** August 22, 2000  
**INVENTOR:** Pietras et al.  
**EXAMINER:** Jennifer Gay  
**GROUP ART UNIT:** 3672  
**CONFIRMATION NO.:** 5424

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